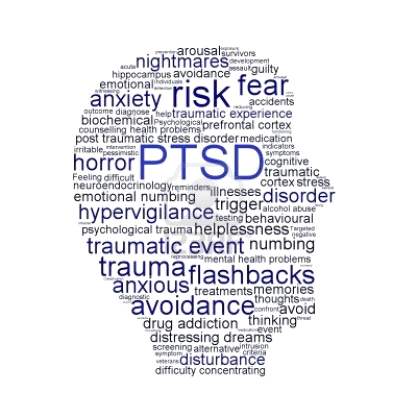
**House of Mirth**



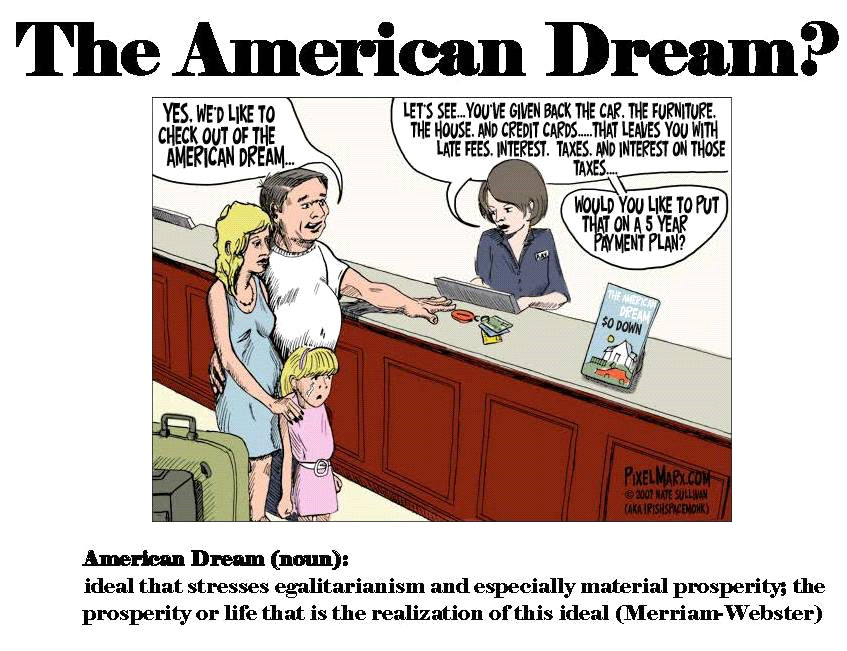
Lily Bart continually struggles with the vast majority of decisions that are presented to her. In relationships, she fails to make a decision in a reasonable time eventually leading to her ultimate downfall. Had Lily made any commitment to any man at the time when they arose, she would have found herself in a committed and if not happy, at least comfortable relationship.

**In Our Time**



Throughout this collection of chronologically misplaced short stories, there is a prevalent theme of soldier's difficulty with adapting to civilian life. Often they come back home, unable to get along with their significant others or families. This head of PTSD and the symptoms associated with it illustrate the mental chaos the majority of Hemingway's characters are forced to deal with.

**Death of a Salesman**



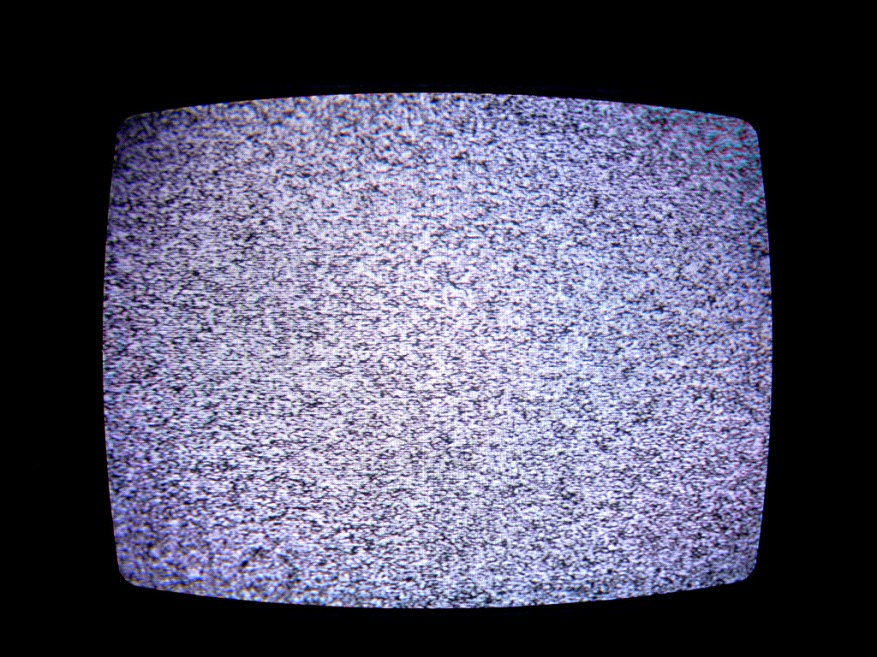
In *Death of a Salesman* Willy Loman struggles with the pursuit of the fabled American dream. The influence of American commercialism cements in Willy's head as he purchases items he and his fmaily cannot afford in hopes to epitomize the American dream and all it stands for. However, his very average salary is not conducive to such a way of living and his inability to cope leads to his demise.

**Beloved**



Throughout the story the characters of *Beloved* attempt to escape their past. However, the very memories they are often trying to escape manifest themselves in the present causing much difficulty to characters. Furthermore, by the story taking place immediately after the Civil War, there is an overarching implication of America living in the shadow of slavery.

**White Noise**



As indicated by the novel's title, the characters are living a society immersed in a constant sound. Generally, this sound is the noise of consumerism made up of advertisements, commercials, and inaccurate facts. By being so immersed in such a commercially driven society, it would seem the character's overall sense of distingushing the significant from the insignificant is dimmed down.